

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----061555Z 050026 /47

O P 061429Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 431  
INFO AMEMASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4219

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR GR US  
SUBJECT: BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAY 6 DISCUSSION WITH FORMIN BITSIOS

REF: ATHENS 4214

1. IN ADDITION TO MY DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WITH BITSIOS  
OF THE UPCOMING LONDON MEETINGS (REFTEL), WE ALSO TOUCHED  
BRIEFLY ON SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS.

2. STRASBOURG MEETING WITH CAGLAYANGIL. BITSIOS DID NOT  
ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS LATEST BILATERAL MEETING  
WITH CAGLAYANGIL(UNLIKE HIS STAFF -- SEE ATHENS 4218). HE  
SAID IT WAS ANOTHER OF THEIR PERIODIC  
ATTEMPTS TO CLEAR THE AIR IN ORDER TO PROCEED  
WITH CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS AT OTHER LEVELS TO RESOLVE  
THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE DISPUTES IN THE AEGEAN.  
CAGLAYANGIL HAD RESTATED HOW HE THOUGHT THE DISCUSSIONS  
AND NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED, AND SO HAD BITSIOS.  
IT BECAME CLEAR TO BITSIOS THAT NOTHING REALLY SIGNIFI-  
CANT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AS  
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FAR AS THE TURKISH SIDE WAS CONCERNED, UNTIL AFTER THE  
TURKISH ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH. EVEN SO, CAGLAYANGIL  
HAD WANTED BADLY TO RESUME THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS  
ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE BEFORE THE ELECTIONS  
AND, IF POSSIBLE, BEFORE THE END OF MAY. THEREFORE,  
TO BE ACCOMMODATING, BITSIOS HAD AGREED TO SEND TZOUNIS  
AND THE GREEK DELEGATION TO SUCH A MEETING BEFORE THE

END OF THIS MONTH; BUT HE REALLY DID NOT EXPECT MUCH TO HAPPEN THERE.

3. CYPRUS. BITSIOS SEEMED TO BE GENERALLY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS WE HAD MADE TO MAINTAIN THE TALKS IN NICOSIA THIS MONTH. HERE AGAIN, HOWEVER, HE HAD GATHERED FROM CAGLAYANGIL THAT NO REAL PROGRESS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUES COULD BE EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER THE SCHEDULED JUNE 5TH ELECTIONS. HE SAID CAGLAYANGIL HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE PROBLEM BASICALLY WAS ECEVIT, WHO CONSIDERED AND PORTRAYED HIMSELF IN TURKEY AS THE "VICTOR" ON CYPRUS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO REAP IMPORTANT POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FROM ANY PRE-ELECTION INDICATIONS THAT THE DEMIREL GOVT WAS GIVING UP POSITIONS ON CYPRUS "WON WITH TURKISH BLOOD."

4. DCA DISCUSSIONS. BITSIOS SAID HE WAS WELL SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN OUR DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THEM TO BE FINISHED SOON AND ASKED IF I WAS AWARE OF TZOUNIS' TALK LAST NIGHT WITH DCM MILLS (SEPTEL). I SAID I WAS AND THAT I SIMPLY WAS NOT IN A POSITION THIS MORNING TO COMMENT FURTHER, THAT THESE WERE MATTERS THAT HAD TO BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS WERE TAKING TZOUNIS WITH THIM TO LONDON AND THEREFORE HE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ATHENS AGAIN UNTIL THE MIDDLE OR END OF NEXT WEEK. (COMMENT: IF LEDSKY DOES INDEED GO TO LONDON, I RECOMMEND HE CONFIDENTIAL

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BE PREPARED TO SEEK TZOUNIS OUT AND DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH HIM THERE, SENDING US A REPORT AND ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AS TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED IN ATHENS.) IN ANSWERING HIS INQUIRY, I TOLD BITSIOS WE WERE PREPARED TO KEEP OUR EXPERTS, WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN IN ATHENS FOR MORE THAN THREE WEEKS, ANOTHER WEEK OR SO AS LONG AS WORTHWHILE PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE.

5. OTHER: IN PASSING, I MENTIONED MY UNDERSTANDING THAT EX-KING CONSTANTINE AND HIS FAMILY WERE EXPECTED TO FLY TO THE UNITED STATES TODAY ON A WEEK'S VISIT AS PRIVATE CITIZENS AND TOURISTS. AS FAR AS I KNEW, THEY WOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO GO TO WASHINGTON NOR WAS I AWARE OF ANY POSSIBLE CONTACT BETWEEN CONSTANTINE AND ANY US OFFICIALS. HAVING IN MIND MY LATE, PRIVATE DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER KANNELLOPOULOS AND OPPOSITION LEADER MAVROS, I ALSO MENTIONED -- WITHOUT GIVING ANY DETAILS-- THAT I CONTINUED, IN THE COURSE OF MY NORMAL DUTIES AND

MOVEMENTS IN GREECE, TO HAVE PERIODIC CONTACTS WITH  
THESE TWO GENTLEMEN AND OTHER PROMINENT POLITICAL  
LEADERS AND PERSONALITIES NOT ASSOCIATED WITH CARAMANLIS  
AND THE GOVT. (BITSIOS HAD ON INSTRUCTIONS ADMONISHED  
SOVIET AMBASSADOR UDALTSOV LAST YEAR FOR  
IMPROPER INTERFERENCE IN GREEK INTERNAL POLITICAL  
AFFAIRS.) BITSIOS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES  
AND CONTACTS WERE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE INASMUCH AS I  
WAS NOT ALLOWING MYSELF OR MY POSITION TO BE IMPROPERLY  
EXPLOITED PUBLICLY (AS UDALTSOV HAD DONE).  
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## Message Attributes

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